

Remarks

The Applicants have amended the Specification to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

The Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of the previous grounds of rejection.

The Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 6 to recite that the film layer is a peelable thermoplastic film layer. Support may be found throughout the Specification, such as on page 9, three lines from the bottom, for example. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

New Claims 10 and 11 have been added. They depend from Claims 1 and 6, respectively. They recite that the thermoplastic film layer may be formed from polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate or polybutylene terephthalate. Support may be found in the Specification in the paragraph spanning pages 9 and 10.

Turning now to the merits, the Applicants do not interpret Claims 1 – 2, 4 – 5 and 7 as being “capable of” as recited on page 2 of the Official Action. The language “capable” does not appear in these claims. Those claims recite that the composition evaporates or discolors. This is not capable of, but actually happens.

The Applicants acknowledge the rejection of Claims 1 – 2 and 5 – 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Fan with Solms. (The Applicants assume that the reference to “5 – 9” is a typographical error and should be “4 – 9”.) The remarks set forth below are intended to cover Claims 1 – 2 and 4 – 9.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the solicited claims are patentable over Fan. Fan discloses a photosensitive printing element used for flexographic printing plates. The photosensitive printing element includes a support, a photopolymerizable layer, at least one barrier layer and at least one layer of infra-red radiation-sensitive material.

However, there is a significant difference between Fan and the solicited claims. This is shown in the Table below:

This Invention	Fan’s Invention
Optical density changing layer	IR sensitive layer
Film layer	Barrier layer
Photosensitive resin layer	Photopolymerizable layer
Support	Support

In the claimed invention, after radiation, the film layer with the optical density changing layer is peeled off from the photosensitive resin layer, and then the photosensitive resin layer is developed by a liquid developer.

In sharp contrast, in Fan, the barrier layer which corresponds to the film layer in this invention is not peeled off. In Fan, the IR sensitive layer, the barrier layer and the photopolymerizable layer are developed by liquid developer simultaneously without peeling. Therefore, in Fan, the components of the IR sensitive layer, the barrier layer and the photosensitive layer disperse or float in the development solution.

However, in this invention, the development solution contains only the photosensitive layer component. This provides this invention with an advantage over Fan in the life of development solution.

The Applicants accordingly respectfully submit that Fan is inapplicable to the solicited claims under 35 U.S.C. §102. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire Application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



T. Daniel Christenbury
Reg. No. 31,750
Attorney for Applicants

TDC:lh
(215) 656-3381